EIL and consisting of representatives from Planning Commission, GAIL, ONGC, IOC and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been constituted to examine the various offers received for import of natural gas, with a view to augmenting the supplies of natural gas in the country.

**Oil Refinery in Joint Sector**

1237. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set-up Oil refinery in joint sector involving IOC and private sector or with foreign investmet in U.P. and Bihar during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any offer in this regard from any private sector/ foreign sector;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether any decision has been taken so far;

(d) if so, what are the details of the decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Suspension of Chairman of IOC**

1238. SHRI P. UPENDRA
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation has recently been suspended;

(b) what are the reasons for this drastic action;

(c) whether any inquiry into the matter has been instituted, if so, the results of the inquiry; and

(d) whether this is related to the Snam Progetti's attempt to re-enter the race for the Kandla-Bhatinda contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various complaints of grave misconduct have been received against the Chairman, IOC. After preliminary enquiry and on the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, the CBI has registered a case for investigation.

(d) No, Sir.

**Applicability of T. V. A. to L. D. O.**

1239. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Temperature Variation Allowance which was not applicable to the supply of Light Diesel Oil (L.D.O.) was made applicable under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation has been directed to pay compensation to the buyers for consignments supplied before September 25, 1992; and

(c) if not, why and whether the Indian Oil Corporation is now properly adhering to the norms of the Temperature Variation Allowance with regard to the Light Diesel Oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Temperature Variation Allowance on LDO has been allowed by Government with effect from 25th September, 1992 in consultation with Indian Oil Corporation.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is acting according to the Ministry's guidelines.

**Norms of Laying of Oil and Gas Pipelines**

1240. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Indian Express of 26th May, 1993 stating that Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) is not following norms in laying of oil and gas pipelines; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.